

February 13, 2019
COW2019000151

Paul Gottinger
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 67349
411 A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Sent via Email: 67349-93918948@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Paul Gottinger:

Don't waste time waiting for the US Postal Service to deliver the information you requested. Go online, create an account, and receive the information electronically! Read the attached yellow flyer for more details.

We received your request for information on February 11, 2019 relating to the number of employees of USCIS terminated/retired and hired 2015-2018.

Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). It has been assigned the following control number: COW2019000151. Please cite this number in all future correspondence about your request.

We respond to requests on a first-in, first-out basis and on a multi-track system. Your request has been placed in the simple track (Track 1). You specifically requested:

A copy of records documenting the number of employees of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who were terminated/retired, or left USCIS for any reason, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, as well as a copy of records documenting the number of new employees hired to work for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Consistent with 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FOIA regulations, USCIS processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although USCIS' goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period in certain circumstances. Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Additionally, due to the scope and nature of your request, USCIS will need to locate, compile, and review responsive records from multiple offices, both at headquarters and in the field. USCIS may also need to consult with another agency or other component of the Department of Homeland Security that have a substantial interest in the responsive information. Due to these unusual circumstances, USCIS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). Please contact our office if you would like to limit the scope of your request or to agree on a different timetable for the processing of your request. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

Because of the subject matter and because of your demonstrated ability to disseminate information to the public, USCIS will grant this request for fee waiver.

This office now offers an online delivery option. If you would like to receive the requested records online, you will need to register this request at <https://first.uscis.gov>. If you do not already have a MyUSCIS

account you will be prompted to create one. Once logged on, click the "Register Request" link where you will be asked to enter your control number COW2019000151 and the following six digit PIN: 945706. If you do not wish to take advantage of this option, we will be providing your records on a Compact Disc (CD) for use on your personal computer. To request your responsive records on paper, please include your control number and write to the above address Attention: FOIA/PA Officer, or fax them to (816) 350-5785.

The National Records Center (NRC) has the responsibility to ensure that personally identifiable information (PII) pertaining to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) clients is protected. In our efforts to safeguard this information, we may request that additional information be provided to facilitate and correctly identify records responsive to your request. Though submission of this information is voluntary, without this information, your request may be delayed while additional steps are taken to ensure the correct responsive records are located and processed. Further, if we are unable to positively identify the subject of the record we may be unable to provide records responsive to your FOIA request.

You may check the status of your FOIA request online, at www.uscis.gov/FOIA. Click the "Check Status of Request" button in the middle of the web page or "FOIA Request Status Check & Average Processing Times" on the left side under "Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIA)." Then click "FOIA Check Status of Request" at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions given. If you have any questions concerning your pending FOIA/PA request, or to check the status of a pending application or petition, please call The National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. Please be aware that the National Records Center no longer accepts FOIA/PA related questions directly by phone.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Please include the Control Number listed above on all correspondence with this office. Requests may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead, emailed to USCIS.FOIA@uscis.dhs.gov, or sent by fax to (816) 350-5785. You may also submit FOIA/PA related questions to our email address at FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations